Introduction

The Library and Information Services (LIS) area of the Kennedy Institute is primarily comprised of three closely-integrated projects: the Bioethics Information Retrieval Project (BIR), the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature (NRCBL), and the National Information Resource on Ethics and Human Genetics (NIREHG). The primary role of BIR is to select and index bioethics materials for the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed and LOCATORplus databases. All three projects support staff and the purchase of equipment, and the two latter projects also support the acquisition and cataloging of materials, collection preservation and maintenance, reference assistance, delivery of Web-based services, and outreach activities. The LIS publications program, which provides reference materials to a wide and international audience, is dependent upon all three projects. Additional federal and private funding supplements the three major projects, and Georgetown University provides office and library space for LIS.

Collection Development

LIS staff monitor in-house and secondary sources in order to identify additions to the journal, book, audiovisual, and special collections. The NRCBL’s Collection Development Policy, based on its specialized classification scheme of 22 major topics, guides the acquisition process. (See http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/classchemall_03.pdf for a copy of the scheme.)

In 2002, 12,696 journal and newspaper articles were added to NRCBL/NIREHG. Of these, 8,197 articles were selected from in-house journals, and 3,208 from other journals. Current subscriptions fall into three categories: priority journals, other BIR-eligible journals, and non-BIR journals (such as foreign-language bioethics journals, bioethics newsletters, collection development tools, and information and computer professional periodicals). The 3,208 items published in journals to which the library does not subscribe are acquired from the authors themselves, or from other Georgetown University and area libraries, including NLM.

Another important group of journal articles are those published in special topic or symposium issues of journals. In calendar 2002, 725 such essays were selected for PubMed from single issues acquired by NRCBL/NIREHG.

The LIS staff review directly 200 journals for PubMed (see below), nominating items that meet
the criteria mentioned below. The Senior Bibliographer makes the final determination as to what goes into PubMed. In 2002, 6,280 journal and newspaper articles were selected for PubMed.

Academic Medicine  
Accountability in Research  
Agriculture and Human Values  
AIDS and Public Policy Journal  
America  
American Journal of Bioethics  
American Journal of Human Genetics  
American Journal of Law and Medicine  
American Journal of Nursing  
American Journal of Psychiatry  
American Journal of Public Health  
Annals of Health Law  
Annals of Internal Medicine  
Archives of Internal Medicine  
Assia, Jewish Medical Ethics  
ATLA: Alternatives to Laboratory Animals  
Bioethics  
Bioethics Forum  
BMJ (British Medical Journal)  
Brandeis Law Journal  
British Journal of Nursing  
Bulletin of Medical Ethics  
Business Ethics: A European Review  
Business Ethics Quarterly  
Business and Professional Ethics Journal  
Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics  
Canadian Medical Association Journal  
Christian Bioethics  
Christian Century  
Clinical Ethics Report  
Community Genetics  
Conservative Judaism  
Criminal Justice Ethics  
Death Studies  
Decisions: Journal of the Federation Internationale des Associations Medicales Catholiques  
DePaul Journal of Health Care Law  
Developing World Bioethics  
Dolentium Hominum  
Environmental Ethics  
Environmental Values  
Ethical Human Sciences and Services  
Ethics  
Ethics and Behavior  
Ethics and Intellectual Disability  
Ethics and Medics  
Ethics and Medicine  
Eubios Journal of Asian and International Bioethics  
European Journal of Health Law  
First Things: A Monthly Journal of Religion and Public Life  
Formosan Journal of Medical Humanities  
Free Inquiry  
Genetic Testing  
Genetics in Medicine  
GeneWatch  
Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics  
Hastings Center Report  
Health Affairs  
Health and Human Rights  
Health Care Analysis  
Health Care Ethics USA  
Health Care Financing Review  
Health Law in Canada  
Health Law Journal  
Health Law Review  
Health Matrix (Cleveland)  
Health Policy  
Health Progress  
HEC Forum  
Human Genome News  
Human Life Review  
Human Reproduction  
Human Reproduction and Genetic Ethics  
Human Research Report  
Humane Health Care  
Hypatia  
International Digest of Health Legislation
International Journal of Applied Philosophy
International Journal of Bioethics (Journal International de Bioéthique)
International Journal of Health Services
International Journal of Law and Psychiatry
International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care
IRB: Ethics and Human Research
Issues in Ethics
Issues in Law and Medicine
Issues in Medical Ethics
Issues in Science and Technology
JAMA
JONA's Healthcare Law, Ethics, and Regulation
Journal of Advanced Nursing
Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science
Journal of Applied Philosophy
Journal of Biowhat and Business
Journal of Clinical Ethics
Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy
Journal of Ethics
Journal of General Internal Medicine
Journal of Genetic Counseling
Journal of Halacha and Contemporary Society
Journal of Health Care Law and Policy
Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law
Journal of Information Ethics
Journal of Intellectual Disability Research
Journal of Law and Health
Journal of Law and Religion
Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics
Journal of Legal Medicine
Journal of Medical Ethics
Journal of Medical Genetics
Journal of Medical Humanities
Journal of Medicine and Philosophy
Journal of Moral Education
Journal of Nursing Administration
Journal of Nursing Law
Journal of Palliative Care
Journal of Professional Nursing
Journal of Psychiatry and Law
Journal of Public Health Policy
Journal of Religion and Health
Journal of Religious Ethics
Journal of Social Philosophy
Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law
Journal of the American College of Dentists
Journal of the American Geriatrics Society
Journal of the American Medical Women's Association
Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics
Journal on Medical Ethics
Judaism
Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal
Lancet
Law and the Human Genome Review
(Revista de Derecho y Genoma Humano)
Legal Medical Quarterly
Linacre Quarterly
Literature and Medicine
Medical Ethics & Bioethics (Medicinska Etika & Bioetika)
Medical Humanities
Medical Humanities Review
Medical Law International
Medical Law Review
Medical Trial Technique Quarterly
Medicine and Law
Medicine, Conflict and Survival
Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy
Mental Retardation [0047-6765]
Milbank Quarterly
Minnesota Medicine
Monash Bioethics Review
National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly
Nature
Nature Biotechnology
Nature Genetics
Nature Medicine
NCEHR Communiqué (National Council on Ethics in Human Research)
New England Journal of Medicine
New Genetics in Society
New Scientist
New York Times
New Zealand Bioethics Journal
Newsweek
Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics and Public Policy
Nursing Ethics
Omega: Journal of Death and Dying
Online Journal of Issues in Nursing
Origins
Perspectives in Biology and Medicine
Perspectives on the Professions: Ethical & Policy Issues
Pharos
Philosophy and Public Affairs
Philosophy and Public Policy Quarterly
Politics and the Life Sciences
Princeton Journal of Bioethics
Professional Ethics Report
Professional Ethics: A Multidisciplinary Journal
Protecting Human Subjects
Psychiatric Services
Public Affairs Quarterly
Res Publica
Responsive Community
Review of Metaphysics

SBC: Newsletter of the Society for Bioethics Consultation
Science
Science and Engineering Ethics
Science as Culture
Science, Technology, and Human Values
The Sciences
Sh’ma
Social Justice Research
Social Philosophy and Policy
Social Science and Medicine
Social Theory and Practice
Society and Animals
Splice: The Magazine of the Genetics Forum
Studies in Christian Ethics
Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics
Time
Today’s Christian Doctor
Tradition
UNOS Update
Update (Loma Linda University Ethics Center)
U.S. News and World Report
Women's Health Issues
Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law, and Ethics

Staff also monitor more than 30 secondary sources for relevant monographs and journal articles, such as Choice, Current Contents (the Clinical Medicine, and Social and Behavioral Sciences editions), Current Work in the History of Medicine (the Wellcome Library Online Catalogue), Index to Canadian Legal Periodical Literature, Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, Library Journal, MEDLINE, PHILOSOPHER’S INDEX, Specialty Law Digest: Health Care, Tarlton Law Library, and WorldCat. In addition, staff routinely visit selected websites to acquire new and important bioethics documents.

One thousand ten books were added to NRCBL/NIREHG in 2002. From these, BIR staff selected and indexed several hundred monographs as a whole, and 558 chapters. In 2003, an increasing number of Web-delivered monographs and selected chapters are being indexed and added to LOCATORplus.
Criteria for Inclusion in PubMed and LOCATORplus

Bioethics is a field of study concerned with value questions that arise in health care, in the professional patient relationship, and in biomedical research. It embraces the traditional concerns of medical ethics, focusing on the rights and duties of health professionals and patients, as well as contemporary concerns about the investigator-subject relationship and the social impact of biomedical, behavioral, and genetic research and technology. A third dimension of bioethics is the quest to develop reasonable public policy guidelines for both the delivery of health care and the conduct of research.

Current areas of concern in bioethics include the topics and subtopics presented below in outline form:

BIOETHICS AND CLINICAL ETHICS
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
   Codes of Ethics
   Medical Ethics
   Nursing Ethics
ETHICISTS AND ETHICS COMMITTEES
   Clinical Ethics Committees
   Research Ethics Committees
PROFESSIONAL PATIENT
RELATIONSHIP
   Confidentiality
   Informed Consent
   Patients' Rights
   Treatment Refusal
   Truth Disclosure
HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
   AIDS
   Care of Special Populations
   Managed Care Programs
   Resource Allocation
REPRODUCTION
   Abortion
   Contraception
   Prenatal Diagnosis
   Prenatal Injuries
   Sterilization
REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES (ASSISTED)
   Artificial Insemination
   Cloning

In Vitro Fertilization
Surrogate Mothers
GENETIC INTERVENTION AND RESEARCH
Eugenics
Gene Therapy
Genetic Privacy
Genetic Research
Genetic Screening
Genome Mapping
Patenting Life Forms
ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION
Embryonic Stem Cell Transplantation
DEATH AND DYING
Active Euthanasia
Advance Directives
Allowing to Die (Passive Euthanasia)
Assisted Suicide
Determination of Death
Resuscitation Orders
Right to Die
Terminal Care
MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIES
Behavior Control
Involuntary Commitment
Psychoactive Drugs
HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION
Behavioral Research
Embryo and Fetal Research
Bioethics has been, since its inception in the late 1960s, a cross-disciplinary field. The BIR seeks to provide comprehensive coverage of substantive English-language materials, published since 1973, that discuss ethical and related legal or public-policy aspects of the topics and subtopics listed above. Citations are drawn from the literatures of the health sciences, the social sciences, law, philosophy, and religion, as well as from the popular media. These citations lead readers to a wide variety of publication types, including journal articles; books and chapters within books; newspaper articles; legal documents; government, advisory committee, and task force reports; audiovisual materials; and Web-based publications. The monitoring system for identifying relevant materials is international in its scope.

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